

laboration, and it is to be assumed that the descriptions of desert trips in search of cacti are by Frances Bonker. Together they have produced a very readable, authoritative volume. It catches the lure of desert beauty, the limitless desolation, the heat and the marvellous awakening of cactus color that comes with certain seasons. And its descriptions of species, while accurate, are in non-technical language.

For the general reader and casual traveller no better book on the cacti of the southwest could be written than *The Fantastic Clan*. But upon the cultivation of them by far the best book is the Orange Judd publication called *Cactus Culture* by Ellen D. Schulz, who is the director of the Witte Memorial Museum at San Antonio.

The cultivation of cacti is very much on the increase. There are many dealers in these plants, and the Santa Barbara Garden Tours Committee recently issued a list of 387 species cultivated in their vicinity. In many parts of the nearly frost-free southwest growing cacti may be easy enough. But in areas of too much moisture or too much cold their cultivation is apt to be difficult.

The author of *Cactus Culture* had both audiences in mind. Her practical thoroughness is obvious in her account of watering, propagation, pests, insects, and all the pitfalls of cactus culture. And she has many useful hints on the making of artistic cactus gardens, of which she manages one at the San Antonio Museum.

The cult of the fantastic clan is growing faster than most easterners realize. Until a year or so ago there was almost no popular literature on cacti, but within six months three books have appeared. Both of the volumes here noticed are well illustrated, particularly *The Fantastic Clan* which, besides many half-tones and line cuts, has three beautifully colored plates. Both books are indexed and each of them admirably fits the niche for which it was written.

NORMAN TAYLOR

**A. J. Grout. Moss Flora of North America North of Mexico.  
Vol. III. Part 2. 1931.**

This second part of Dr. Grout's Moss flora deals with what the author calls the subfamily *Amblystegieae* of the family *Hypnaceae*, perhaps better regarded as a separate family *Amblystegiaceae*, as in the second edition of Engler & Prantl.

The treatment follows in general the lines noted already for the first part.

The reviewer, though claiming but a small fraction of the knowledge of these plants possessed by Grout, finds himself on general principles disagreeing in many, if not nearly all points. A lengthy list of these points of difference would serve little purpose; suffice it to say that one of them is the inclusion under names of a great number of trivial "varieties" and "forms," a point upon which the author has especially "invited comment." Such differences of opinion do not however prevent a cordial welcome of this or any other equally competent revision of the North American moss-flora, which is sadly in need of a good many revisions. The European moss-flora, or more limited parts of it, have already been revised by many bryologists, without any general agreement on details having been arrived at, but the result of it all is that the European moss-flora is at any rate pretty definitely known, which is far from being the case with that of North America, even if its tropics be excluded.

In conclusion reference may be made to two very dubious systematic innovations. The old *Hypnum Schreberi*, which has become the step-child of recent taxonomy, is included by Grout with *Hypnum cuspidatum* under the genus *Calliergonella* of Loeske, which seems no improvement upon previous attempts to find a place for it in the system. The exclusion of *Amblystegiella* from the family *Amblystegiaceae* needs at least further confirmation before it can qualify for general acceptance.

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